

## **WaterBytes – The Organization End Water Poverty**

*Recorded by Jonathan Hartline  
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Jonathan: Hello, my name is Jonathan Hartline and today I will be talking to you about End Water Poverty, an organization which strives to raise awareness of global water issues and encourage governments to take a stand against water poverty.

Alternate Voice: “Currently, a staggering 2.6 billion people live without a safe toilet and 884 million people lack access to clean water. These problems combine to make a massive crisis for developing countries - undermining health, education, economic and gender equality progress.” ~ End Water Poverty, 2011

Jonathan: End Water Poverty has its beginnings in late 2006 and was officially launched on World Water Day 2007 (March 22). Since then the campaign has raised awareness on various days throughout the year. For World Water Day 2010, End Water Poverty helped organize the World’s Longest Toilet Queue, a global demonstration in 80 different countries worldwide demanding “Sanitation and Water for All.” The event was started to pressure governments into doing more to combat water sanitation, as an estimated 4,000 children die from treatable water diseases each year. Education is also undermined by water issues, as gathering water to survive is often more important than going to school. This year, World Water Day marked the start of the World Walks for Water campaign, in which people throughout the world participated in 6-kilometer walks in their local communities to bring the issue of water sanitation to the forefront yet again.

Alternate Voice: Other organizations which were involved in organizing the World Walks for Water campaign include the Freshwater Action Network (FAN), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), and WASH United.

Jonathan: End Water Poverty is also very connected when it comes to social media. Their Twitter page, @EndWaterPoverty, has 4,926 followers and is used to send out quick tweets on their progress fighting the global water and sanitation crisis. The End Water Poverty Blog at [www.endwaterpoverty.blogspot.com](http://www.endwaterpoverty.blogspot.com) has more up-to-date information on what kinds of projects are going on now. In addition to these mediums, End Water Poverty also has a Facebook account and their website, [endwaterpoverty.org](http://endwaterpoverty.org), contains entries on various stories concerning water poverty issues. Currently, End Water Poverty is working to demand governments take action against water poverty at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) in Istanbul this May.

Alternate Voice: “End Water Poverty campaigners have seen the draft Istanbul Programme for Action, the document that will be adopted at LDC-IV, and applaud the ambition of the document which states that by 2020 all LDCs will have access to clean water and basic sanitation.” ~End Water Poverty, “Demanding Political Change for LDCs,” 30 March 2011

Jonathan: The organization also has future plans to encourage participants to give world leaders a sendoff before the G8 and AU summits later this year, reminding them to keep water and sanitation at the forefront of their considerations. November 19, 2011 also marks World Toilet Day, where End Water Poverty members around the world will plan a “Slummit” in their local communities to raise awareness of water and sanitation issues for urban residents in impoverished countries.

Three of the organizations we have podcasts on are already part of the End Water Poverty Coalition: Water.org, WaterAid, and Water for People. If you are a student or nonprofit water organization who wishes to support this coalition, you can find more information and sign their pledge at [www.endwaterpoverty.org](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org).

#### Resources for Podcast

End Water Poverty (2011). *The issue: what is the problem?* Retrieved April 1, 2011, from [http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/the\\_issue/](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/the_issue/)

End Water Poverty (22 Mar 2010). *Thousands line up to join world-record breaking campaign to ensure sanitation and water for all.* Retrieved April 1, 2011, from [http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/news\\_\\_events/203.asp](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/news__events/203.asp)

End Water Poverty (30 Mar 2011). *Demanding political change for LDCs.* Retrieved April 1, 2011, from [http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/news\\_\\_events/253.asp](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/news__events/253.asp)

End Water Poverty (2011). *End Water Poverty in 2011.* Retrieved April 2, 2011, from [http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/about\\_us/249.asp](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/about_us/249.asp)

End Water Poverty (2011). *Members: The End Water Poverty coalition.* Retrieved March 30, 2011, from <http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/members/>